

# Rogue River Courier.

VOL. XXIV.

GRANTS PASS, JOSEPHINE COUNTY, OREGON, FRIDAY, OCTOBER 2, 1908.

No. 27

## FARMERS JOIN IN IRRIGATION WORK

### An Enthusiastic Meeting Held Monday.

### GOOD MEN ON COMMITTEES

#### Strong Effort to be Made to Secure an Irrigation System Next Year.

The Irrigation Convention called last week to meet in the hall of the Commercial Club for the purpose of interesting the farmers gaining and their support in the movement to secure water for the lands adjoining Grants Pass on both sides of Rogue River, met Monday afternoon, and had there been a larger attendance, the convention would have been compelled to adjourn to more commodious quarters for every seat was occupied and fifty or more persons were obliged to find standing room in the rear of the hall and along the isles.

The convention was called to order promptly at 2 o'clock by Col. C. G. Contant, Chairman of the Irrigation Committee of the Commercial Club, and R. Thomas was elected to preside over the convention. Colonel Contant then stated that the object of the meeting was to request the farmers to elect six of their number as a committee to act with a like committee from the club in securing irrigation for the valley as matters had come to a point where help was needed from the men who own the soil of the valley, and continuing he said:

"We fully realize that the day will come after irrigation is secured, when the farmers will be recognized for all time as the leading people in this section of country and today the members of the Commercial Club are here, not only to compliment you in the interest you have taken in irrigation, but to encourage you in the work; we believe that this time you are going to succeed, and when the happy and proud day comes when the waters of Rogue River will trickle down the hill sides, mixing with the sands of the plains and the sunshine of the valley, there is no question as to the reputation the Rogue River valley will have for its apples, pears, peaches and other fruits, and then you will all be proud that you were here today to help organize not only the first steps in irrigation, but the first convention ever held in this city regarding local irrigation."

M. J. Anderson was called for and gave an exceedingly interesting talk, mingling mirth with facts, causing his hearers to be convulsed with laughter one minute, the next to count up their riches when the fruitfulness waters shall have been led over their broad acres. The speaker admitted that he was a crank on irrigation and he proceeded to prove that he and all others were justified in endorsing over it, handling his subject in a way that convinced his audience that he was thoroughly at home with the matter in hand. He discussed the Carey Act

and its adoption by the state of Oregon, told of the wonders accomplished by applying water to the lands in Washington, Wyoming, Colorado and other states, of the great projects undertaken by the National Reclamation Service, especially the Gonnison River scheme where the tunnel is entirely lined with concrete and goes six miles through the mountain to bring the water to the land, and of other places where concrete conduits have been built a distance of from fifty to sixty miles, where land had to be flooded and drained again and again to rid the soil of alkali before a crop could be produced, making land which under ordinary circumstances was not worth paying taxes on bring a return of from \$500 to \$1000 per acre.

After telling what had been done in other sections Mr. Anderson discussed the local conditions, saying that we have the water and the land and a climate that cannot be surpassed, that the minute the first shot is put in to bring the water the land will increase in value at a rate to more than pay for the money expended, but that the trouble seemed to be the water is too handy, as it runs right through us to the sea, whereas if we had to build a six mile tunnel to bring it through the cascades or the Siskiyoues we would fall all over ourselves trying to get at it.

Mr. Bateham moved that a committee of three be appointed to nominate six farmers to serve with the committee of the Commercial Club, and the chair appointed Judge Jewell, H. C. Bateham and H. C. Kinney, and while they were making up a ticket J. G. Riggs, secretary of the Irrigation Committee of the Commercial Club was called upon to give what information he had been able to gather during his trip to Portland last week as to the probability of securing government assistance in the way of engineers, etc. He stated that he had had an interview with Mr. Heney, chief of the Reclamation Service, and with Mr. Hopson, his assistant and had been informed by both of those gentlemen that there was no way by which government engineers could be sent to examine private enterprises for the reason that it was against the policy of the government to enter into competition with private enterprise, but in reply to inquiries said that the only way to get irrigation started down here was for the people to get together and form an association, then raise the necessary money to hire a competent engineer and that when the people here are ready for an engineer he would be glad to recommend a competent and trustworthy man.

Mr. Riggs stated that he had also had an interview with Mr. Stover of the U. S. Agricultural Department who has charge of irrigation and drainage experiments in Oregon and that he had told him the same things as the other two but had finally volunteered to come down and go over the ground personally about October 10th, make a thorough examination and report and render any other assistance in his power.

On motion of R. L. Coe a formal invitation was extended to Mr. Stover to visit Grants Pass, to examine and report on the various irrigation projects proposed, and to deliver an address at a meeting to be held for the purpose. At this juncture the nominating committee reported the following names as a committee of farmers to act with the club committee: G. A. Hamilton, E. E. Blaichard, Lion D. (Continued on last page)

## CIRCUIT COURT NOW IN SESSION

### Many Criminal and Civil Cases on Docket.

### GRAND JURY IS IN SESSION

#### Winfield Littlefield and Mrs. E. A. Imbler Will Not Be Prosecuted.

On Monday last Circuit Court convened, Judge H. K. Hanna, presiding. The grand jury empaneled, sworn and charged, the principal charge, being to investigate the alleged violation of the laws prohibiting the sale of liquor. T. Y. Dean was appointed foreman of the grand jury, the other members being A. F. Knox, Clair Nickerson, Ed. Burk, C. G. Sawyer, F. E. Barrett and R. A. N. Reyners. O. S. Goodnow was chosen bailiff.

The calendar was called, and the following proceedings had:

Case of W. B. Sherman vs. H. B. Miller, dismissed.

Kinney & Traux vs. A. V. Schmidt, dismissed.

W. L. Montgomery vs. E. C. Headle, referred to County Court.

In the case of Ella Walker vs. J. J. Walker, a decree of divorce was granted.

Case of Joseph McCourt & Hugh McCourt vs. Geo. Lewis, as adm. estate of M. Laughlin, deceased, default entered.

George R. Riddle, as assignee of the estate of W. R. Reed, an insolvent debtor filed his final account, which was approved by the court, and a dividend of 2 per cent paid to all creditor whose claims were allowed.

C. S. Jackson vs. A. W. Stearns demurrer to complaint overruled.

C. S. Jackson vs. A. W. Stearns, defendant given an order allowing him to inspect certain documents in possession of plaintiff.

Rogue River Water Co., vs. City of Grants Pass, Demurrer of plaintiff to answer of defendant which was taken under advisement at the July term of court, decided in favor of plaintiff, and defendant given five days to amend answer.

Nellie Hibbs granted a divorce from John A. Hibbs and given the custody of the three minor children.

McCabe-Dunne Tanning Co., vs. J. P. and J. M. Eubanks, Returned to justice court for retrial.

E. T. McKinstrey vs. H. H. Triplett. Motion, of plaintiff to vacate order overruled.

In the case of Joseph McCourt vs. Geo. W. Lewis, as administrator, a decree of foreclosure of mortgage was entered.

T. K. Anderson was awarded a judgment by default against the Oregon Mining Co.

Isaac Custer vs. W. R. Whipple, an order entered confirming sheriff's sale.

C. L. Barlow vs. D. L. Smith, order entered confirming sheriff's sale.

Mrs. Winnie Findley was given a decree of divorce against W. D. Findley.

Grand Jury Reports. On Wednesday the Grand Jury made its first report.

The two shooting cases were carefully considered by the grand jury and in both instances "not a true bill" was found. One of the cases was against Mrs. I. E. Imbler for shooting Miss Ella Williams in the face with a charge of bird shot, September 27th while the latter with several others were going through the Bailey vineyard on the Applegate on the way home from a dance and the other against Winfield Littlefield, who shot his friend Charlie Christie while deer hunting near Wonder on September 2nd causing his death 11 days later.

There were several indictments filed, which will not be made public until the persons against whom they are brought have been apprehended. The grand jury is still in session and will probably report again during the day.

Going Out of Business. Fred Gumpert, having completed arrangements to go to Portland by November 1st, is now offering his entire

stock at prices never before heard of. He is advertising a gigantic ten day sale, commencing Wednesday October 8 at 9 a. m. on his clean, staple stock of desirable merchandise, and at the ridiculously low prices offered, the entire stock should easily be disposed of. Read the advertisement in this issue, note the prices. Nothing will be reserved as the stock must be closed out at any price. The sale will be extensively advertised for miles around in every direction. A large crowd, the largest ever gathered at a sale is confidently expected and preparations are being made to handle all comers who wish to save money on staple goods. Remember the date, October 8. Remember the place, Fred Gumpert's.

There is nothing better than Stran-sky ware for use in preserving fruit. Try preserving kettle at Cramer Bros.

Deputy District Attorneys Appointed.

District Attorney B. F. Mulkey has announced the appointment of A. C. Hough as deputy district attorney for Grants Pass, and also the appointment of H. D. Norton to assist in the same office. The appointment of Mr. Norton was made at the request of residents of this city having in view the enforcement of the prohibition law.

Our American Stock and Rabbit Fence is made especially for the needs of the Fruit Growers of Southern Oregon as it will turn both rabbits and stock. Sold only by Hair-Riddle Hdw. Co.

Special One Week Sale.

The R. L. Coe store will hold a one week sale commencing tomorrow, Saturday October 3, and continuing till the night of October 10th, and during this time will sell everything in the store at the lowest imaginable prices, a list of which may be seen in the full page advertisement elsewhere in this issue. Men's suits will be marked down to such a price that everyone can afford a good new suit for this winter, underwear of all kinds will also be sold at way down figures, and all other gent's furnishings accordingly.

Ladies goods, suits, dress goods, cloaks, and everything else for the ladies will go at prices advertised.

A fine line of blankets will also be included in this marked down sale, and notions of all kinds, such as laces, ribbons, etc. And don't forget the shoes. You will find every kind of shoes for men and women, boys and girls, and even the baby.

## MULKEY MAKES GOOD CAMPAIGN SPEECH

The Republican rally held at the Opera House was attended by a fairly good crowd Tuesday evening, and District Attorney B. F. Mulkey delivered an able address on the issues of the campaign. Mr. Mulkey is an eloquent speaker and went over the history of the Republican and Democratic parties from 1860 to the present time, paying particular attention to the fallacies of Bryan and his apparent insincerity as indicated by his speeches and writings since he first came into prominence, and closing with the achievements of Taft during his connection with the administration. Mr. Mulkey was very hoarse and was obliged to stop without devoting much time to the platforms of the two parties, but promised to discuss these matters at a later date. His talk throughout was in earnest and instructive.

President Hale of the Taft & Sherman club presided and before introducing the speaker of the evening gave a humorous talk on Bryan's campaigns from 1896 to 1904 at which time he figured Bryan would make his last attempt to get into the White House.

The Grants Pass orchestra played several times during the evening and added much to the enjoyment of the occasion.

Bostonian Minstrel Maids.

One of the greatest novelties of the season, the Bostonian Minstrel Maids will be at the Opera House Tuesday Oct 6. This company is composed entirely of young ladies, who sing the catchy songs of the day, spring clean jokes and afford an evening of real fun and amusement. If you fail to see this show you will miss a treat.

Window glass and putty at Hair-Riddles.

## FOREST FIRES DO IMMENSE DAMAGE

### Much Timber and Other Property Burned.

### EVANS CREEK SUFFERS

#### Hunters Believed to be Responsible for Majority of Fires in This Section.

Forest fires have been serious during the past season in many parts of the United States. In Minnesota and Michigan, millions of feet of timber were destroyed, in California many thousands of dollars worth of redwood was burned and in other sections forest fires devastated large areas dealing death and destruction to all in its path. Oregon has had its share of fires this year and Josephine county probably suffered as much as any other county in the state. A couple of fires gave considerable trouble in the Murphy section, another in the Fruitdale district caused the farmers for a radius of several miles a great deal of trouble. The people of Grants Pass have not forgotten the many days and nights when the hills north of town were a mass of smoke and flames. The real fires of this county, however, were on Evans Creek, and are still burning after some eight or nine weeks, and one of these, has traveled a distance of twenty-two miles from two to four in miles in width.

W. B. Sherman spent many weeks on Upper Evans Creek, with a crew of men fighting fires to prevent the destruction of the large timber interests of the Grants Pass Timber Company and he states that at one time he and his crew had no less than 17 separate fires to contend with and in order to successfully combat the raging elements they were obliged to maintain a moving camp, by means of pack horses. The fires were kept from greatly damaging the timber owned by this company but there were other people who did not get off so easily. Mr. Sherman is satisfied that all of the fires which burned on Evans Creek and vicinity the past season, with but one exception, were started by hunters, and not a few of them deliberately. One fire in particular he says covering a section where there was a low pass, or saddle over the mountain was fired in the shape of a horseshoe for a distance of several miles, leaving the pass the only opening for the deer to escape, undoubtedly to be slaughtered by the firebugs, who for the sake of being able to make a big killing had no scruples about setting a fire which could not help destroying many thousands of dollars worth of timber and other property, besides the probability of the loss of life.

The fire question causes Mr. Sherman to come to the conclusion that the open season for deer is too long and that it should be shortened to about 30 days and not begun until after the extreme dry season has passed. For the period of 30 days most persons can afford to keep a close watch for fires, but when the hunters are going over the country from the middle of July to the first of

November, it is impossible to make even a pretense of patrolling property interests, especially where they are some miles from the residence of the owner.

## SPECIAL ELECTION TO BE HELD OCTOBER 27

The city council held an important meeting last evening. A commission was appointed to draft a new charter for the city in order that the imperfections of the present one may be eliminated and many improvements added.

The city attorney was instructed to withdraw the suit which is now pending against the water company, and a special election was ordered to take place on October 7 to vote on the matter of purchasing the water works system by the city at the price of \$94,000.

## MANY PLAYS BOOKED FOR GOMING SEASON

The people of Grants Pass will not want for entertainment during the coming winter, and will have an opportunity to see a number of first class plays. The opera house is now on the Northwestern Association circuit, managed by John Cort of Seattle. While the booking season has just begun, there are already a goodly number of dates taken. The attractions so far billed are as follows:

October 3—The Missouri Girl; 12th, Josh Perkins; 13th, Montana Limited; 15th, Four Corners of the Earth; 21, Richards & Pringle's Minstrels; 27, Cripple Creek; 31, First number of Lyceum Course.

November 4—Flaming Arrow; 26, The Holy City.

December 7—Girl of the Sunny South; 23, Banko in Arizona; 29, In Wyoming; 31, Jane Eyre.

January 8—Second Number of Lyceum Course; 19, Sandy Bottom.

February 3—Lieutenant, the Cowboy; 4th, The Girl of the Stampede; 14th, Stetson's Uncle Tom's Cabin; 20, San Antonio.

March 3—Lyman Twins; 20, A Corner in Sweethearts; 26, Third Number of Lyceum Course.

April 17—Last Number Lyceum Course.

THE LYCEUM COURSE.

The committee having in charge the securing of talent for the four numbers in the Lyceum Course have arranged their program. The committee consists of H. C. Kinney, Chairman; and Prof. R. R. Turner, Secretary and Treasurer, and these gentlemen have undertaken to secure good entertainers, and have succeeded in providing for four numbers which are sure to please all who attend. The first number, will be four musical artists; the next number will be Germane, one of the best musicians in the country. For the third entertainment they have secured Packard, impersonator and sketch artist, and for the fourth and last evening they have The Dunbar Male Quartette and Bell Ringers. This quartette was here last year and gave universal satisfaction, and needless to say, will draw a large house this time.

The committee having these entertainments in charge do not receive any financial return and their only desire is to make the entertainments pay for themselves. Season tickets have been placed at \$2 for adults and \$1.50 for school children.

## C. W. Longman, Tenor Soloist.

Mr. C. W. Longman is the soloist and musical director for the Whiston-Longman Evangelistic team which begins the great meeting at the Christian church next Tuesday night, October 6th. Mr. Longman will please the people of Grants Pass with his solos. He is a great asset to Mr. Whiston, the evangelist. That Mr. Whiston appreciates the services of Mr. Longman is shown when the public understands that Mr. Whiston waited two years to secure the services of Mr. Longman. The meetings begin promptly at 8 o'clock next Tuesday night and no doubt there will be a large crowd to witness the first appearance of these noted evangelists.



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